





## THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, AND THE INTENT OF SMITHSON'S BEQUEST.

The *Tribune* of the 25th December has a column upon the subject of our article of the 21st December, to which we wish to say a word or two, in further consideration of the purpose of Smithson in making his will, which is spoken of in our all hands as it was dubious, and requiring not only the sagacity of men learned in the law, but the aid of spiritual mediums, who reveal to us the *anxieties* of the founder of this Institution. And first, there is not a single word in the will which indicates in what way this Institution shall attain the aim and end of its founder.

This was left to Congress, with the whole authority in its hands, before it could be distributed.

From the *Advertiser*, we learn that the Regents created by them should devote one week to the study of distributing twenty thousand dollars per annum, in the vestment of a Library. It was in this way the fund was to be exhausted. They did not purpose that the work of authorship or book printing should be distributed by this fund, as it must be if it shall be devoted to Contributions to Science, whether these be in the form of *catacombs* for children or text books for colleges. Nor is there any such word as *science* in the bequest. This word has been paraded before the public so often, that very many persons have come to think Mr. Smithson has made his bequest for the advancement of science specifically. It is not so.

His words are, "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

It seems to us that, had he not, to us, that the word *knowledge*, as used, denotes the widest possible range, to include all kinds of knowledge, he would have

is a cluster of white houses, looking as if they had alighted among the trees, and might take wing again. On entering it he finds himself in a very pretty village, built round an ample green, and shaded by lofty trees. It contains three churches, a school, a college, a residence, a tower, a dozen houses, a post office, a minute watchmaker's shop, and a hundred private houses. There is not a human being to be seen, nor a sound to be heard, except the twanging of birds overhead, and the voices of the birds in their nests.

The utter silence and the deserted aspect of the older villages in New England are remarkable. In the morning of evenning there is some appearance of life; but at noon there is none. At the day when the sun is at its zenith, the women bus with their household affairs, and the children at school, the visitor may sit at the window of the village tavern for an hour at a time, and be assured that no one is near him. The remote regions seem to make the silence audible.

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We shall hope for other treatises from Dr. Thornewill. There is a good deal of Gospel truth yet untaught.

*Smithson's Cradle.* — *Tr. Russ.* By Mr. Modest. New York: De Witt & Dauphin. Pp. 300.

Those who have read the work, by this lady, entitled "*Roughing it in the Bush*," will need more than the knowledge of the existence of this new work, from the same facile and graphic pen, to purchase it. It is every way worthy of the reputation of its author.

*Papa's Friends.* — *Wm. Newell and Associates.* — *Chales Murray Niles.* N. Y. New York: Carter & Brothers. For sale by Gray & Ballouney. D. C. v. 1. Pp. 300.

Mr. Taylor has given us true pictures of the Ohio valley, of the gorgeousness and sunshines of the East. Some of them are Byronic. The "Hymn to the Air" we would copy entire, if we had space for it.

*Papa's Friends.* — *Wm. Newell and Associates.* — *Chales Murray Niles.* N. Y. New York: Carter & Brothers. For sale by Gray & Ballouney. D. C. v. 1. Pp. 300.

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